

**Plant Protection and Quarantine Management Team and
National Plant Board Council
January 19-21, 1999, Riverdale Maryland**

Tuesday, January 19, 1999

Attendees:

<u>Bob Balaam,</u>	Secretary, National Plant Board Council
<u>Steve Baril,</u>	Montana Dept. Agriculture, National Plant Board Council
<u>David Blackburn</u>	Sub-- Don Alexander, Southern Plant Board, National Plant Board Council
<u>Terry Burrell</u>	Budget Analyst, Plant Protection and Quarantine
<u>Pamela Byrnes</u>	Program Analyst, Operational Support, Plant Protection and Quarantine
<u>Ron Caffey</u>	Veterinary Medical Officer, Plant Protection and Quarantine
<u>Joe Cavey</u>	Program Analyst, Operational Support, Plant Protection and Quarantine
<u>Mike Caporaletti</u>	Program Analyst, Policy and Program Development
<u>Joe Davidson,</u>	Acting Central Regional Dir., Plant Protection and Quarantine
<u>Pat Donahue</u>	Program Analyst, Budget and Accounting
<u>Donald Eggen,</u>	Eastern Plant Board, National Plant Board Council
<u>Alfred S. Elder,</u>	Deputy Administrator, Plant Protection and Quarantine
<u>Paul Eggert,</u>	Special Assistant, Deputy Administrator, Plant Protection and Quarantine
<u>Robert Flanders</u>	Program Analyst, Operational Support, Plant Protection and Quarantine
<u>Jerry Fowler,</u>	Eastern Region Director, Plant Protection and Quarantine
<u>Robert Gronowski,</u>	Western Plant Board, National Plant Board Council
<u>Mona Grupp</u>	Director, Resources Management Staff, Plant Protection and Quarantine
<u>Subhash Gupta</u>	Program Analyst, Operational Support, Plant Protection and Quarantine
<u>Vic Harabin,</u>	President, Nat'l Association Plant Protection and Quarantine Managers
<u>Glenn Hinsdale</u>	Acting Western Regional Director, Plant Protection and Quarantine
<u>Steve Johnson,</u>	President, National Plant Board Council
<u>Jonathan Jones</u>	Program Analyst, Operational Support, Plant Protection and Quarantine
<u>Debbie Knott</u>	Program Analyst, Operational Support, Plant Protection and Quarantine
<u>Jeanne Legasse</u>	Representative, National Association of Agriculture Employees
<u>Mike Lidsky</u>	Program Analyst, Operational Support, Plant Protection and Quarantine
<u>Ron Komsa</u>	Program Analyst, Policy and Program Development
<u>Penny Kriesch,</u>	Communications Manager, Plant Protection and Quarantine
<u>Susan Kostelecky,</u>	President, National Association of Agriculture Employees
<u>Rick Lewis,</u>	Budget Analyst, ABS, Animal Plant Health Inspection Service
<u>Dale Meyerdirk</u>	Program Analyst, Operational Support, Plant Protection and Quarantine
<u>Bill Metterhouse,</u>	Plant Pest Control Compact, Liaison, National Plant Board Council
<u>Ron Milberg</u>	Program Analyst, Operational Support, Plant Protection and Quarantine
<u>Charlotte Miller</u>	Program Analyst, Information Technology Community
<u>Mary S. Neal,</u>	Acting Associate Deputy Administrator, Plant Protection and Quarantine
<u>Shashank Nilakhe,</u>	Southern Plant Board, National Plant Board Council

<u>Mike Oraz</u>	Dir., National Biological Control Institute, Plant Protection and Quarantine
<u>Scott Pfiser.</u>	Eastern Plant Board, National Plant Board Council
<u>Dave Reeves</u>	Program Analyst, Operational Support, Plant Protection and Quarantine
<u>James Reynolds,</u>	Acting Director, Operational Support, Plant Protection and Quarantine
<u>Eva Ring</u>	Program Analyst, Policy and Program Development
<u>Anwar Rizvi</u>	Program Analyst, Operational Support, Plant Protection and Quarantine
<u>Charles Schwalbe</u>	Acting Director, CPHST, Plant Protection and Quarantine
<u>Mike Shannon,</u>	Repres't've, State Plant Health Directors, Plant Protection and Quarantine
<u>Tom Sim,</u>	Central Plant Board, National Plant Board Council
<u>Stan Smith,</u>	Central Plant Board, National Plant Board Council
<u>Jim Smith</u>	Program Analyst, Operational Support, Plant Protection and Quarantine
<u>Bob Spaide</u>	Dir., Scientific Services, Plant Protection and Quarantine
<u>Mike Stefan</u>	Program Analyst, Operational Support, Plant Protection and Quarantine
<u>Russell Stewart</u>	Program Analyst, Operational Support, Plant Protection and Quarantine
<u>Al Tasker</u>	Program Analyst, Policy and Program Development
<u>Fred Thomas</u>	Program Analyst, Operational Support, Plant Protection and Quarantine
<u>Sonia Vicinanza</u>	Upcoming Acting Director, Western Region
<u>Dorothea Wayson</u>	Program Analyst, Operational Support, Plant Protection and Quarantine

AGENDA

As of Friday, Jan 15, 1999

Agenda for Tuesday, January 19, 1999. Training Room 4 - Second Floor			
Time	Topic	Objectives	Presenters
08:00-08:30	Opening Remarks	Agenda/Action Items	Al Elder/Steve Johnson
08:30-09:00	Communications, Civil Rights	Plans & Updates	Penny Kriesch
09:00-09:15	Partnership Council	Information Sharing	Al Elder/Susan Kostelecky
09:15-10:15	Funding/Emergencies/User Fees	Information Sharing	Paul Eggert
10:15-10:30	Phytosanitary Certif Wording	Change Agreement	Jonathan Jones
10:30-10:45	Break		
10:45-11:00	NPB and PPQ Committees	Ground Rules/Input	Steve Johnson
11:00-11:15	Permits Issues	526 Working Group	Steve Johnson
11:15-11:30	Status 330	NPB in Final Review	Mike Lidsky
Lunch			
12:30-12:45	Safeguarding Concept	Expanding Concept	Al Elder
12:45-01:00	Strategic Planning	Intent and Approach	Jim Reynolds
01:00-02:00	Ag Quarantine Inspct'n/Monitr'g	Strategic Plan Input	Nat'l Safeguarding Tm
02:00-02:20	Asian Gypsy Moth	Strategic Plan Input	Coanne O'Hern
02:20-02:40	Asian Longhorn Beetle/SWP	Strategic Plan Input	Joe Cavey
02:40-03:00	Break		
03:00-03:20	Potato Ring Rot	Strategic Plan Input	Steve Poe
03:20-04:00	Biocontrol	Strategic Plan Input	Mike Orazé
04:00-04:10	Black Stem Rust	Strategic Plan Input	Steve Poe
04:10-04:30	Boll Weevil	Strategic Plan Input	Lanny Brashear

As of Wednesday, Jan 20, 1999

Agenda for Wednesday, January 20, 1999. Training Room 4 - Second Floor			
Time	Topic	Objectives	Presenters
08:00-08:45	Fruit Fly Safeguarding System and Medfly Update	Update on Medfly Strategic Plan Input	Mike Stefan
8:45-09:00	Golden Nematode	Strategic Plan Input	Dan Kepich
09:00-09:10	Grasshopper	Strategic Plan Input	Joe Davidson
09:10-09:30	Gypsy Moth	Strategic Plan Input	Coanne O'Hern
09:30-10:00	Imported Fire Ant	Update on IFA Strategic Plan Input	Ron Milberg
10:00-10:15	Japanese Beetle	Strategic Plan Input	Ron Milberg
10:15-10:30	Break		
10:30-11:15	Plant Methods	Strategic Plan Input	Matt Royer
11:15-11:30	Witchweed	Strategic Plan Input	Edna Suggs
11:30-12:30	Lunch		
12:30-01:30	Plant Health Trade Initiative	Update	Alan Green
01:30-02:00	Canada/U.S. Trade Negotiations	Update	Darlene Orr
02:00-02:20	Canada/U.S. Pest Alert System	Update	Steve Johnson
02:20-02:40	Snail Pest Risk Assessment	Update	Ron Henessey
02:40-03:00	Invasive Alien Species	Update	Rebecca Bech
03:00-03:15	Break		
03:15-03:30	PIN OPS	Update	Calvin Schuler
03:30-04:00	Japanese Cedar Longhorn Beetle	Update	Dan Fieselmann
04:00-04:30	KB Fact sheet	Update	Steve Baril

As of Wednesday, January 20, 1999

Agenda for Thursday, January 21, 1999. Training Room 4 - Second Floor * Note: PPQ Employees are to attend prior meeting commencing 7:30 in room 3B01CN			
Time	Topic	Objectives	Presenters
09:00-10:00	Safeguarding Review	Status	Craig Regelbrugge
10:00-10:15	Pine Shoot Beetle	Strategic Plan Input	Chris Markham
10:15-10:30	Pine Shoot Beetle	Issues Discussion	Ken Rauscher
10:30-10:45	Break		
10:45-11:15	Biotechnology	Strategic Plan Input	Sally McCammon
11:15-11:45	Kikuyu Grass	Update	Polly Lehtonen
11:45-12:45	Lunch		
12:45-01:30	Karnal Bunt	Update Strategic Plan Input	Bob Nave
01:30-01:45	CAPS	Update	Dave McNeal
01:45-02:05	Pest Detection	Strategic Plan Input	Dave McNeal
02:05-02:15	Citrus Canker	Strategic Plan Input	Steve Poe
02:15-02:35	European Larch Canker	Strategic Plan Input	Steve Poe
02:35-02:55	Pink Boll Worm	Strategic Plan Input	Coanne O'Hern
02:55-03:15	Break		
03:15-03:30	Sweet Potato White Fly	Strategic Plan Input	Chuck Schwalbe
03:30-03:45	Noxious Weeds	Strategic Plan Input	Randy Westbrooks
03:45-04:30	Close-out	Action Items	Penny Kriesch

NOTE: Hard copies of PPQ's Proposed Strategic Program Plans and other handouts from the meeting are available to NPB members from Regional NPB Council Representatives.

Opening Remarks - Al Elder and Steve Johnson

- Introductions of attendees
- Moment of silence in honor of Dr. Robert Williamson, prior Central Regional Director, PPQ
- Expression of concern and support for Don Alexander, Arkansas State Plant Board

1. Communications. Penny Kriesch

- Communications is an occurrence of mutual understanding that enables each party to effect change or action necessary to accomplish a goal.
- True communication is a two-way exchange.
- For purposes of strategic planning:
- Each program manager will develop a communication plan or strategy that addresses the market segment (i.e. stakeholders) that are essential to accomplishing mission.
- The mission is set by program parameters (i.e., scope of operations and budget).
- From the mission, program managers must develop a plan for internal stakeholders (i.e. colleague support that balances work and service demands) and external stakeholders (i.e., customer expectations that addresses our customer's business and service demands).
- Once individual communication plans are developed, they will be used as basis for development of Legislative and Public Affairs external communications plan and program support internal communication strategies. Penny Kriesch will set up meeting with each program manager to develop internal/external strategies.
- Current efforts in communication include weekly meetings with National Plant Board Council and National Association of Agriculture Employees.
- Requests to enhance communication with NPB include: expanding use of lis server, ensuring NPB members subscribe to PPQ list server, securing services of a PPQ web/page master, encouraging program analysts to write weekly hilites (of efforts towards strategic goals).
- Forward proposed rules/dockets to NPB.
- Quality of information and its purpose is still an issue.
- PPQ enacted a national civil rights group to ensure that programs meet requirements and intent of equal and fair treatment of all employees.
- Organization assessment survey now being conducted among all PPQ employees.
- Target market - internal and external communication strategies. Weekly meetings with NPB and Union.
- Communication plans -
 - Market segment: external/internal stakeholders;
 - Product category: Program line item.
- Communication results

- Communication implementation - Plan
- Discussion on ways to improve communication between PPQ and stakeholders. Also need to identify stakeholder expectations.
- Key issues that need to be communicated (perhaps via listserver): PPQ weekly updates, rule changes/proposals, new pest issues, personnel changes. Penny will meet with Steve Johnson and Bob Balaam on these issues.

2. *Partnership Council.* Alfred Elder and Susan Kostecky

- PPQ and NAAE have revived the partnership council. The intent is to get union and management to work together more closely.
- A simple charter was agreed upon with commitment to meet regularly to confidentially discuss topics of importance to the organization. The charter is a commitment to open and confidential dialogue between executive team of both groups
- Discussions will be held along broad subjects to come to philosophical agreements and to establish a productive relationship.
- The meeting was extremely positive even though the group covered some tough issues (i.e. GS-11 review)
- Communication was a major topic discussed (see articles on "Why Communication Fails" and "Building Credible Communications").

Action item: Mike Shannon to talk with SPHD's on submission of OAS survey

3. *Budget Issues.* Paul Eggert

- One of objectives we should have when talking about strategic plans is where we are going and how to mesh it into the fiscal process. There is not enough money to do job we want to do from a biological viewpoint, which causes serious consequences.
- AQI user fees represent are 61% of all funds.
- Tomorrow's "State of The Union Address" will tie into the budget process. The addresses functionally releases the funds for year 2000. There are two areas concern: biological control and plant methods, where we took significant reductions.
- Discussion of emergency funding avenues: Agency contingency funding and Commodity Credit Corporations. Contingency fund is not large enough for major emergencies. Is small scale funding
- Federal funding is not enough. The National Plant Board can pass resolutions to increase funding, but if Congress is not influenced, there is nothing that APHIS can do. Now is the time for states to encourage Congress to increase spending in specific programs or to redirect money from one program to another. State plant regulatory officials should educate industry groups (seed industry, citrus industry, etc.) so that they understand that Cotton Council will push for \$16 million in boll weevil and that money will probably come from existing funds (probably AQI-User Fees). NASDA also needs to be more involved in plant pest issues.

- For strategic planning, PPQ must consider the political environment to see if our activities are effective.
- The National Plant Board agreed to discuss what they think their priorities should be and in turn discuss them with their respective Secretaries of Agriculture. It would then be up to the Secretaries to discern what to approach congressional representatives and industry about.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT: Worldwide ANPR for Solid Wood Packing Material will be published in the Federal Register, tomorrow (January 20, 1999).

4. Phytosanitary Certificate Wording Changes as a Result of IPPC.

Personnel Changes: Darlene Orr will be working with negotiating side of PIMT. Nancy Klag is now head of accreditation and standards. Paru Patel and Fred Thomas have joined Export Services. Export Services is now fully staffed. For discussion, see attached paper. Optional statement only applies to propagative material.

IPPC is revising standard for model phytosanitary shipments. This is expected to be approved by end of 1999. Signatory countries have the option of adding a optional statement for propagative materials. See options for “optional statement” on briefing paper. **State regulatory personnel should discuss this issue with its stakeholders to determine which option is most desirable and funnel those opinions back to Export Services Unit in Riverdale.**

5. National Plant Board and PPQ Committees; permit issue. Steve Johnson

The issue was raised regarding the maintenance, membership and review of various committees. Ground rules need to be established regarding committee involvement, what information is shared, how information is finalized. A list of committee members is available at the www.partners.usda.gov/npb web site. NPBC also asked for meeting notes via adobe acrobat reader. Meeting notes from 526 work group will cover permit issue.

Steve asked PPQ if ad hoc USDA committees, which NPB currently sits as a member, are still active. Al said some of them may no longer be active. **They will look at the list and make a determination.**

6. Status 330. Mike Lidsky

A draft of the proposed regulation has been forwarded to Plant Board for review. In Sept. 96, APHIS published an ANPR on revisions to part 330. Highlights of the changes include: (1) it is written in plain English; (2) it follows ANPR pronounced revisions; (3) decides what is Agency jurisdictional authority; (4) has identified criteria for what is indirect and direct damage; and (5) has expanded on the idea of quarantine facilities. Several key concepts are introduced which include methods of handling low risk shipments and the introduction of a notification (as opposed

to permit) system for certain organisms.

States need to review draft 330 regulation proposal and be prepared to comment when rule is published (about 60-90 days). Rule, as published, may differ from what is in print right now.

Training for facility inspection (train-the-trainer) has been completed. They are supposed to be training others in the states to do the inspections. State plant regulatory agencies need to be instructed in the inspection process.

7. *Expanding Concept of Safeguarding.* Al Elder

PPQ is looking at ways it can expand use of user fees. One area we can begin to look at is cargo and a lot of smuggling interdiction also associated with cargo.

There is no way, considering the volume of cargo, that we can look at everything. As such, we are considering the review of cargo containers as they are devanned. Since devanning points occur across the United States, APHIS PPQ is looking at developing user fees for home containers. (We have authority from OGC to develop such a fee). These funds could be used to help support an infrastructure. It would take approximately 1 year for a new user fee to be developed.

8. *Strategic Planning.* Jim Reynolds

The purpose of the strategic plans are to develop results-based goals for the accomplishment of the mission that are commensurate to authorized fiscal resources. The process for this system will be (1) review of draft strategies to ensure compliance with overall program intent; (2) ensure strategies are commensurate with budgets (i.e., are working on 3 budgets at a time -- 1999 or what we are currently spending;-- 2000 or what last year's strategic plans cover, and -- 2001, or what new draft strategic plans cover); and (3) to ensure that plans are in accordance with GPRA requirements.

After the communication strategies are developed, this information will then be used in a joint meeting between PPQ Communications Manager and Legislative and Public Affairs group to develop an external communications strategy.

Note: It is the responsibility of the program managers to gather/receive comments on the plans. Comments on proposed plans should be submitted to program manager that is presenting the plan; if in doubt, submit comments to Penny Kriesch.

9. *Ag Quarantine Inspct'n/Monitr'g.* Dave Reeves. No change in stated goal from last year. Discussion on whether AQI program is geared toward a maintenance of acceptable level of risk or take a more proactive approach on expanding or promoting risk reduction in the face of increased global trade.

10. Asian Gypsy Moth. Coanne O'Hern. Discussion on whether to make AGM a separate line item in the budget. Options = separate line for AGM or combine with European Gypsy Moth under "gypsy moth". Resolution to combine AGM as a budget line item with Miscellaneous Plant Pests.

11. Asian Long horned beetle/SWPM. Joe Cavey. 2700 trees have been removed in NY. Over 400 infested trees have been identified for removal in Chicago, but have not yet been removed due to snow conditions. Intensive surveys continue. Biometric surveys have been completed in NY and NJ.

List of destination addresses by state that have been intercepted by PPQ as having wood boring beetles was sent to State Plant Health Directors.

12. Potato Ring Rot. Steve Poe. This is not a strategic plan issue but rather is a short term program issue. Will resolve issues through a bilateral meeting with Canada. Should be part of PIMT Team.

Canada is requiring that seed potatoes to be used for subsequent seed production be tested by an approved laboratory testing program for freedom from potato ring rot. Sampling requirement is 400 tubers "officially" collected, i.e. pay for an inspector to come and collect sample. Canada allows growers in a Certified Seed Program to collect the samples for interprovincial movement. Current US testing is done as a field inspection, not a laboratory inspection. Issue of contention between US seed potato producers and Canada. Canadian requirements are within NAFTA guidelines since Canada requires the same procedure for interprovincial shipments of seed potatoes. Currently no private US labs are accredited to do such testing. Goal is to get private US laboratories accredited.

13. Black Stem Rust. Steve Poe. Finished a video regarding the program. Haven't received many comments on the program. Is not a top priority. See draft strategic plan.

Part of Miscellaneous Plant Pests budget line item. Doesn't appear to be any interest in this program. Proposal for FY99 is for APHIS to draft a current risk assessment and request that 17 protected states provide APHIS with descriptions of their current barberry eradication programs and regulatory programs.

14. Biocontrol. Mike Orazo. Budget was significantly reduced. As such, they revised strategic approaches and set new goals based upon funding. PPQ biocontrol budget was one of three line PPQ items that was reduced by the Department. Dept. Reduced biocontrol line item by approximately \$500K from APHIS request. OMB then reduced it another \$300K. PPQ put salary adjustment money back into biocontrol program to bring it to \$8,160K. See revised strategic plan.

15. Boll Weevil. Lanny Brashear. Goal continues to be eradication of Boll weevil from all cotton growing areas of US by year 2003, in cooperation with States, cotton industry, and Mexico. See revised strategic plan.

Wednesday, January 20, 1999

Additional Attendees:

<u>Alan Green</u>	Program Anal't, Phytosanitary Is Mgt Tm, Plant Protection and Quarantine
<u>Jeff Grode</u>	Program Analyst, Operational Support, Plant Protection and Quarantine
<u>Jane Levy</u>	Program Analyst, Operational Support, Plant Protection and Quarantine
<u>John Nichols</u>	Program Analyst, International Services
<u>Darlene Orr</u>	Program Anal't, Phytosanitary Is Mgt, Tm, Plant Protection and Quarantine
<u>Paru Patel</u>	Program Analyst, Scientific Services, Plant Protection and Quarantine
<u>Ken Rauscher</u>	Sub- National Plant Board Council
<u>Ralph Ross</u>	Special Ass't. Deputy Administrator, Plant Protection and Quarantine
<u>Calvin Schuler</u>	PPQ Officer, Eastern Region, Plant Protection and Quarantine
<u>Wilmer Snell</u>	Program Analyst, International Services

16. Medfly Update. Mike Stefan

- Since last fall, we have been managing California Medfly outbreaks in LaHoya, San Diego, Lake Forest, Orange County and Lake Elsinore. It will be mid summer before we move any quarantine areas.
- As for Mexfly, we are managing outbreaks in El Cajon, San Diego. We are releasing steriles for several life cycles. We have a 160 square mile release in southern San Diego that will continue through June. There are no new significant fly finds.
- In Florida, we have removed all quarantines as of October 2, 1998. Currently, we are releasing steriles over a 100 square mile area in Sebring, and a 700 square mile are on the west coast of Florida. These releases are used as a precautionary measure.
- In the lower Rio Grande Valley, there have been no Mexfly wild catches.
- As for Central American, there have been a number of outbreaks in southern Mexico where there haven't been any in previous years. This may be indicative of movement of the front towards the U.S. A science panel has developed some recommendations and we are using these (as we look for funds) to rejuvenate the program.
- Organizationally, International Services and PPQ are working more closely together as it has been decided the agency needs to cut down on duplication of staff support.

17. Fruit Fly Safeguarding System and MedFly Update. Mike Stefan.

Summary and update of Med Fly and Mex fly activity in Southwest US, Mexico, and Guatemala

New issues for FY2001 (that may require additional funding):

- review current trapping programs in fruit fly detection in US and identify risk areas and any additional resource needs to meet national protocol - may require more traps..
- cooperate with FCACS to conduct a preventative release program in Florida.
- implement prevention and preparation of emergency response communications plan in Florida.
- assess potential of program to eradicate Mexican fruit fly in Lower Rio Grande Valley.
- provide an adequate and secure supply of the most effective and efficient strain of sterile medflies in Waimanalo, HI.
- provide an adequate and secure supply of the most effective and efficient strain of Mexican fruit fly in Mission, TX.
- Update med fruit fly emergency response guidelines.
- sterile mexican fruit fly release in Tijuana,
- cooperative Mexican fruit fly activities in Northeast Mexico
- development activities -
- develop additional treatments for commodity shipments to meet existing protocols and export requirements.
- utilize NAPIS to store trapping data and provide information for reports and maps to trade partners.

See Revised Plan.

18. *Golden Nematode.* Dan Kepich

- Working with reduced resources.
- 97% of fields surveyed are below the spread level
- GN impacts nursery stock, ability to import and export potatoes (e.g., anything dealing with soil). There is no requirement in NY that growers must use GN-resistant potato stock on exposed land. A new strain, RO2 was found in two sites, any live cysts are now sent to Dr. Brody at Cornell University to check for new strains.
- The mandatory use of GN-resistant stock would greatly help the situation. Markets are improving for GN-resistant varieties.
- Need resources to help support program either via PPQ doing more or NY state helping more. NY also having difficulty with reduced staff.

19. *Grasshopper.* Joe Davidson

- In 1930s, USDA took over grasshopper control, 17 states involved.
- We've received no new dollars since 1993 (6 years with no new funding). Have \$235,000 left to service states.
- What's next? The northern border states have had ideal egg-laying weather.
- We'll have to maintain a readiness to assist. States are preparing a position paper and state that APHIS should be provided responsibility and resources to oversee grasshopper control

program for Federal land and intermingled lands. They will also recommend for Congress to work with USDA to provide stable funding for grasshopper management.

- States are prepared to do survey work, but need federal money to do control on federal range land. Grasshopper Management Board is preparing a position paper that involves inputs from several federal agencies. Some states may be more willing to do survey if nymphal surveys were allowed. Also needs to be a standardized survey. May be included in a biological control program if it ranks high enough against other biocontrol programs and if it can withstand environmental criticism.

20. *European Gypsy Moth.* Coanne O'Hern

- Slow the Spread Program - will analyze national staffing levels for GM
- Analyze national trapping protocol to improve and align with STS program
- Harmonize policy with Canada and the United States.
- Looking for uniformity with state cooperators on quarantines

21. *Imported Fire Ant.* Ron Milberg

- We are in the process of adding Donna Anna county, and several counties in Georgia, Tennessee and South Carolina to the Federal quarantine. In 1998, IFA was discovered in California in Orange County and Riverside. California is committed to eradicating, though Orange County infestation covers a large area that includes ecologically sensitive areas. PPQ may have to quarantine the area. **Western Plant Board states feel that there needs to be a complete review of the IFA program; PPQ agreed to look at this.** Several issues demand this - current pesticide recommendations need to be updated, greenhouse protocols need to be developed, pathways need to be examined (as evidenced by recent detection of IFA in migratory beehives), education of biology and impact of IFA, clear guidelines on certification are needed.
- Goal for 2001 should include biocontrol. Individual budget levels should be developed for western states infestation, in addition to a \$1M request. Zero infestation attributed to movement of regulated articles is probably an unrealistic goal and should be changed.
- Current (prior to this meeting) budget for IFA funding is \$0; based on discussions, PPQ will probably request at least \$1M for FY2001.
- An Advisory panel met in late November. It is estimated it will take 3-4 years to eradicate See revised plan. Goal should include biocontrol. Targets should be more realistic. Should have a program review, separate to strategic plan.

22. *Japanese Beetle.* Ron Milberg

See revised plan. The goal was revised to be more specific. Performance indicators have also been redefined.

23. *Plant Methods.* Matt Royer

- Reviewed strategic plan and measurements.
- Are setting endpoints to projects (usually a two year duration).
- Need to ensure that outcomes cover all program areas.
- Would also like to see start of an AQI center as part of outcomes.
- Coordinating work through ARS is a strategic issue
- Matt is looking for comments. Comments included the need to emphasize the four major initiatives of Plant Methods and there needs to be outcomes for each of the four initiatives or objectives. EPA is criticizing PPQ for lack of development of alternatives to methyl bromide; methods needs to document the work that PPQ is doing in this area. Current goal only indicates “development”; there is also a need to maintain and service those technologies after they are delivered to the field.

24. *Witchweed.* Edna Suggs

- From 1988 to 1998, infested acreage continues to decrease.
- Are many challenges to final eradication: the most important being new and re-infested acres
- Program technology and approach will remain virtually the same
- Need new survey technology other than visual survey.

25. *Plant Health Trade Initiatives.* Alan Green

- With the advent of General Agreement on Trades and Tariffs and the North American Free Trade Agreement, trade barriers shifted from tariffs to Sanitary Phytosanitary issues. As such, the SPS guidelines gained important impact on how we do business. Subsequent to such changes, the concepts of equivalence and taking the least restrictive action came to the forefront in our decision making processes.
- Along with these changes, informal and formal trade dispute resolution procedures and bodies were instituted to expedite/resolve significant trade barriers. Risk analysis had to be more scientific, formal and systematic.
- Discussed current trade issues regarding Ecuador (cotton) Argentina (citrus), Mexico, and Chile. Decisions require a review of scientific issues, offset by trade and political considerations. Our activities must fit in with an overall effort that also includes U.S. Trade Representative and other. When our approvals are slow, we experience a backlash in other parts of the industry.
- APHIS PPQ works with different industry-based associations that have established their SPS committees.
- Discussed next week's meeting with USDA, Economic Research Service that will discuss politics, policy, risk analysis, science and trade.

26. *Canada/U.S. Trade Negotiations.* Darlene Orr, Jonathan Jones.

- In-Transit Program (MT, ND, MN). Began January 4, 1999. Wheat moved out of US through Canada back to US (Seattle) for export to take advantage of cheaper Canadian rail system.
- Wheat Access Facilitation Program (Wheat Access Pilot) (MT, ND). Startup date January 4. Facilitates local movement between border states and Canada. Mass phytosanitary certificate. Not a lot of growers expressing interest right now. May be expanded in six months if other states are interested.
- Karnal Bunt Free Areas (14 Northern States, starting in April). Canada is not recognizing our surveys. But, beginning March 21, they will recognize 14 northern states as being KB free. The 14 states that will be allowed to ship wheat to Canada beginning April 1, 1999, with a phytosanitary certificate certifying that 'the grain is produced in and shipped from a state that has been officially surveyed and found free from Karnal bunt' are: MT, ND, MN, WI, MI, ME, VT, NH, NY, MA, PA, NJ, RI and CT.
- Grain Facilitation (Review of PRAs for Kbw, flag smut, and TCK)
- Potatoes and Bacterial Ring Rot Testing
- Hay and Cereal Leaf Beetle
- 2nd Generation nursery stock plants from Canada (originating from other countries to the U.S.)
- Blueberry Certification Program. PPQ will look into trying to get more survey data from Canada on surveys done for blueberry maggot (negative sites).

27. *Canada/U.S. Pest Alert System.* Steve Johnson

- As with the case with European GM, we need to make sure eradication is occurring in Vancouver. How do we transmit information to Canada on specific plant pest concerns?
- Pest information network and GM Committee are working closely with Canada on issues
- We are facing a dramatic increase in information sharing needs as it applies to Canadian border nursery stock issues. As new nursery stock, etc., comes in, will be more of a role for states and APHIS to preclude exotic pests and diseases. From border crossing, volume of shipments will dramatically increase as should staffing.
- We aren't sure what is coming across the border; is a smuggler's delight.

Action item: Key issue is in sharing pest information. Through North American Plant Protection Organization (NAPPO) we have agreed to share this type of information. We need to review system to see if process for the immediate transfer of pest detection, etc., information is set up.

28. *Snail Pest Risk Assessment.* Ron Henessey

- Three major conclusions of the Snail Pest Risk Assessment (which was written by Dave Robinson): (1) some species are more widely distributed in U.S. than what was known before; (2) contamination of imported shipments with prohibited snails is quite common; (3) there are

quite a few edible land snails that could do a lot of damage if they do come in.

- What will we do about it? It is not readily clear. Snails have been an imported commodity for decades. Some businesses depend entirely on shipments of snails so there will be political considerations to balance with plant pest risks.
- In next few weeks, PPQ will be formulating some new policies regarding snails and will accomplish them through an ANPR. ANPR will solicit public input.
- PRA will be available in the next few weeks.

29. *Invasive Alien Species.* Rebecca Bech

- We are scheduling an announcement event for February 3, 12:30-2:00. Secretaries of Interior, Agriculture and Undersecretary of Commerce (Glickman, Babbitt, Baker) will announce
- Will be held at the National Geographic Society, Forest Hall. Are looking for interests groups who would like to attend.
- There will be a separate press room for Q&A's.
- The Secretaries will announce the Executive order and what each department is doing to address the initiative.
- The Council on Environmental Quality has been actively involved in this initiative.
- National Plant Board is to designate whom they want to attend the ceremony.
- The Executive Order is not accompanied by specific funding. But as management plan is developed, the IAS council will request funding through the normal budget process. National Council will be set up and have an advisory group. NPB might want to have a member on the advisory group.
- States will have to develop their own IAS management plans. The IAS Council will work with states as they develop them.

30. *Port Information Network Operations System (PIN-OPS).* Calvin Schuler

- Integration of Port data including: WADS, 280, AQIM, local data collection systems. Complements PIN -309 system and provides 24 hour nationwide access to AQI
- Partners in System Development; PPQ HQ staff, regional staff SPHDS, PORTS: supervisors, officers, administrative support staff; NAAE, Information Technology Community, PPD, Phoenix Plant Health Center; National Safeguarding Team.
- Progress: Planning and Oversight of Development completed 6/97; Defining System requirements completed 8/98, Design and development of Prototype system with Focus Group review completed 12/98
- Immediate Project needs: Resource support; PPQ staff support (NAQIM Coordinator, Operations Data Administrator), ITc Resource Support (Technical Database Administrator, Customer Service Support) and budget approval for Alpha and beta Testing. See information on Port Information Network Operations System Overview Document (information for focus group participants) dated November 1998.

31. Japanese Cedar Longhorn Beetle. Dan Fieselmann

- First detected in Feb 1998 in NC (one and only beetle). Not a quarantine pest at that time. Attacked only dead and dying cedars and coniferous plants.
- In Sept/Oct it was detected in CT on live arborvitae. Trapping logs and lingren funnel logs will be set up in spring around detection sites. Four nurseries and two private properties had infested plant material detected. All infested plant material is now under screen tent at CAES research farm. Is now considered an action pest and will be treated at ports of entry. CT, at the request of state's nursery industry, is requesting that APHIS allow them to conduct research on the biology of the beetle. Screened facility to be constructed for beetle containment.
Objectives: 1. Need to determine emergence date. 2. Need to identify food preferences. 3. Experimental pesticide (systemic) treatments.
Factors indicate that controlled research on pest will be permitted by PPQ until the Spring of 2000. Will only view one life cycle of pest and then destroy host material.
- There is a possibility that infested stock has been distributed in many other areas of the country.
- Is now designated as an actionable pest. (Since 1982, was not actionable, but have not seen evidence of any established populations). Is no treatment for the pest. (see two handouts on *callidiellum rufipenne*). Need legal document/authorization to take action.

32. Karnal Bunt Fact Sheet. Steve Baril. Needs to be rewritten since this fact sheet is being distributed and is also available on the APHIS web site. Whole KB web site needs to be updated. Fact sheet does not indicate current thinking on moving KB toward a grade and quality pest. PPQ agreed to have LPA update the fact sheet and look at what needs updating on the web site. Need to update science and survey information. Should take out philosophy statements, fact sheets are to only cover basic facts and policies.

Action item: Penny Kriesch to set up meeting with staff officers to (1) provide training for and (2) update all PPQ web information; (3) set up automatic delete for documents on web.

Thursday, January 21, 1999

Additional Attendees:

Christine Markham	Supv PPQ Off'cr, Eastern Region, Plant Protection and Quarantine
Craig Regelbrugge	Safeguarding Review Panel Status Report
Polly Lehtonen	Program Analyst, Operational Support, Plant Protection and Quarantine
Sally McCammon	Acting Dir., Scientific Services, Plant Protection and Quarantine

33. Pine Shoot Beetle. Christine Markham

Strategic Plan: See Revised Plan.

- There are new infestations in Canada.
- Needs to be rewritten since this fact sheet is being distributed and is also available on the APHIS web site. Whole KB web site needs to be updated. Fact sheet does not indicate current thinking on moving KB toward a grade and quality pest. PPQ agreed to have LPA update the fact sheet and look at what needs updating on the web site.
- Canada is being cooperative and has openly indicated the location and severity of pine shoot beetle infestations.
- Strategic plan will still call for quarantines but we need to also develop management plans for regulated areas (with particular attention to Forestry).

34. Pine Shoot Beetle Issues: Ken Rauscher

Summary data reported by Michigan, Ohio and Indiana on 1998 Pine Shoot Beetle Compliance Management Plan (CMP).

Statistic	Michigan	Ohio	Indiana
Firms enrolled in CMP	30	12	10
Fields enrolled in CMP	105	102	
Firms removed from CMP	6	1	2
Fields removed from CMP	17	29	
Firms not enrolled but participating in certificat'n	208		
CMP fields with PSB	21		
CMP fields exceeding 5% infestation	4	29	

Reasons given for failure or removal of compliance management plan: (1) Stumps; (2) Lack of slash removal; (3) Voluntarily withdrawn - trees not moved outside quarantine area; (4) No trap logs set out; (5) Pine shoot beetle above acceptable levels (5% for Michigan and Ohio)

- In Michigan, pine shoot beetle was found in 27 out of 105 fields. Twelve of these 24 were below the 2% level. An additional 5 were in the 2-5% range and were passed once treatment sprays were applied. Four fields exceeding the 5% level for pine shoot beetle.
- In Ohio, one firm did not follow CMP sanitation and trap log protocol - 29 fields rejected.
- In Indiana, two firms removed from CMP program - one for failure to meet protocols, one for PSB infestation
- Continued monitoring of the program is needed. The Pest Risk Assessment indicates that a 5% infestation rate is a reasonable tolerance level.
- Michigan has proposed changes to the plan based on a 5% tolerance level. Plan was not intended to eliminate PSB. A fall survey of participating fields is necessary. PRA indicates

that even with higher rates than 5% of the population and with 1-2 or several PSB per tree, the spread of the PSB into new areas is negligible. Ken is asking that compliance plan be modified to allow for a 5% tolerance of infestation. Request for change in plan will be submitted to the PSB Technical Advisory committee for consideration. That technical committee will consider request and make a recommendation to the participants of the plan.

35. *Safeguarding Review.* Craig Regelbrugge

- Information has gone out regarding the safeguarding review. (Copies of review proposal are available on NPB web site).
- General environment that launched the review was political as industry and government both had concerns over infestations. NPB took on a leadership role and a partnership between Federal, state and Industry was created.
- On-going programs are outside the review.
- The APHIS steering committee consists of Dan Fieselman, Bob Spaide and Helene Wright, Mike Shannon.
- There are four working committees: Pest exclusion, pest detection and response, permit system and pest information system.
- Glen Lee serves as project advisor and is looking at overarching issues
- The review gives opportunity to interact with international agencies.
- The safeguarding team is establishing a peer review component to have a wider, critical look at the tentative recommendations from the committees.
- Exclusion committee met in CA. Permits committee met in Riverdale. Pest detection committee and pest exclusion committees to meet here in Riverdale in a couple of weeks. Implementation committee built into the plan; NPB is part of that implementation committee.
- See handout which details process, committee members, and timetable.
- Chuck Schwalbe asked that comments received in process be officially published in the report. Also, peer review committee is heavily weighted with fruit and vegetable industry. Appropriate committees from ESA and APS should be included in the peer review and let those organization figure out how they want to deal with an organizational review of the report. Mike Shannon suggested that PPQ provide a list of stakeholders that may be lacking in the committees or peer review.
- April 30 deadline is a problem. If review is compromised by that deadline, the report may be an interim report indicating that some other areas (creative, non-traditional areas) may have to be addressed.

Both House and Senate bills on Plant Protection Act will be reintroduced week of Feb. 2

36. *Biotechnology.* Sally McCammon. Biotechnology lost \$739,000 in funding (\$500,00 out of PPQ). This created two problems: (1) APHIS will have to reexamine what can do; (2) lack of funding created a serious public perception problem as to what our role is in this arena actually is (in past we were a leader in international harmonization of regulations).

When we lost the \$500,000 in PPQ funding, we had to accommodate the loss in other programs (i.e. had permanent employees on board, did not want to remove them).

Industry is moving towards genetically engineered biocontrol organisms.

For the immediate, we would like to have the budget reinstated, and in the future would like to have increases up to 2 1/2 million. There is a need for grassroots support (in Congress) to keep APHIS adequately funded to meet agriculture's needs.

37. Kikuyu Grass. Polly Lehtonen

- Request was granted to import seed from Australia to grow Kikuyu grass seed for re-export and limited distribution in HI and CA. Seed was grown in Arizona desert, where could not become established. Grower then wanted to expand production throughout the United States to areas where grass could become established. PPQ prepared an PRA and solicited comments. APHIS subsequently decided not to issue any further permits. The refusal to issue additional permits is now being contested.
- An independent committee is now reviewing this strain of Kikuyu grass to determine if it is invasive. Regulatory decision will be based upon the science of the species.
- The independent committee will make a recommendation on Kikuyu to APHIS, who will then make the regulatory decision for APHIS.

38. Karnal bunt. Bob Nave

- Review of strategic plan
- Funding is an issue. In future, KB will be supported through Miscellaneous Pests line item
- Quality versus quarantine pest status is still an issue
- Are developing regulations for 1998/1999 Production year. We have deregulated as much as is possible at this moment
- Goal of establishing KB as a grade and quality issue rather than a quarantine issue cannot be done in a vacuum and must be done in concert with our trading partners.
- Export community is going to have to accept that we (APHIS) cannot manage all of their risk. Industry should institute measures to ensure that aren't shipping KB contaminated grain.
- PPQ needs to come to consensus with regulated industry on how to improve situation
- A proposal for Karnal bunt monitoring was provided.
- Discussed sampling procedures. Are reducing the number of samples taken
- Must review infrastructure in states to support sampling process
- Are proposing reducing testing laboratories due to reduced number of samples. Are laboratory backups in case are unable to perform.
- Only had negative feedback on plan from U.S. Wheat Associates SPS Committee
- Have strong support for sampling concept from North American Export Grain Association.

National Association of Wheat Growers has been silent.

39. CAPS. Dave McNeal

- Karnal bunt monitoring program. Follows the KB national survey plan with few exceptions. Same sampling protocol - county level definition. Number of samples would be decreased in 1999 and beyond (about one-half of 1998 level). - same sampling rate but only sample one-half of wheat producing counties in 1999, other half in 2000 (alternating counties). All wheat producing states will be sampled each year. Propose a further consolidation of laboratories from several facilities down to at least one federal facility and one other (Kansas Dept. Of Ag?). General consensus that this proposal makes sense and PPQ will go with it.
- Have a new web site for CAPS (requires user ID and log-in control, not generally available to "the world".
- Are defining types of appropriate data to input into NAPIS database. Are looking at quantitative (numbers) and qualitative (new records) data (see handout on evidence of plant pest entry and spread into the U.S.)

40. Pest Detection. Dave McNeal

- Funds have been used for maintaining infrastructures.
- Need to use safeguarding study to develop a strategic nucleus for pest detection plan
- True question is how do you find new exotics and how do we react

41. Citrus Canker. Steve Poe.

- Need 25 million. Florida State has just provided a revision of citrus canker strategic plan (we still have yet to provide input)
- Disease continues to increase in area. Is an interim rule regulating where it existed a year ago. APHIS has requested funding for current fiscal year (contingency fund request).
- Must have a meaningful strategic plan prior to requesting additional funds
- Permission has not been granted in Miami area to remove exposed trees (can remove infected ones that show signs of disease)
- Florida State would like to reestablish a Citrus Canker Technical Advisory Committee
- Until it is a line item program, we will continue to have difficulty in meeting these requests
- Don't have any other technology than removal to eradicate the problem. Are looking at removing all host material.

42. European Larch Canker. Steve Poe

- Costs \$7,000 per year, affects one state (Maine).
- Federal quarantine provides a parallel program to State of Maine's quarantine that ultimately permits movement of bark mulch to Canada.
- Are some surveys being done in Maine. Canada does not accept regulated area of one state

unless it is accompanied by a Federal quarantine. Therefore, is necessary for these reasons.

43. *Pink Boll Worm.* Coanne O'Hern

- Discussed proposed plan
- Would like to expand to areas where have BT cotton. Also use steriles and pheromones for control
- Strategic plan will include the eradication program. Projected cost of \$6 million.
- Risk Assessment will be out in March 1999. Have risk in South and need to continue with current actions until can define where sources of infestation are coming from.

44. *Noxious Weed.* Randy Westbrooks.

- Ultimate goal of domestic weed program (detection and eradication). Are detecting, delimiting and contain noxious weeds
- Plans form national basis for prevention. See 6 strategic plan objectives). Note: what will accomplish depends mostly upon the funding that will receive)
- Are developing enhanced partnerships: national interest in Executive Order has generated more expansive partnerships (including states). Will establish National Council and National Management Plan
- Emphasizing cooperative survey and detection - setting up an early warning program
- Pursuing public awareness and education - looking for new technology
- Are developing a distributed global database. NAPIS is an important segment
- Want national and state councils to set the tone of APHIS weed program. Want input from field and National Plant Board.
- Bureau of Land Management (western states) needs to be a partner in this issue; if not, those involved in weed control on non-federal lands are just spinning their wheels.

Program Manager's E-mail Addresses:

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National Plant Board Council Meeting Notes January 21, 1999

Containment Facilities Inspection

Containment facilities inspection manuals - discussion on distribution of 2 volume manual. Steve will talk to Pam Byrne about whether SPHDs are going to train us and distribute manuals to SPROs.

NPB Dues Structure

Discussion on dues structure - regional plant boards should discuss: 1. Whether dues should be raised. 2. Should dues rate be set by executive committee or constitution.

NPB Strategic Plan

Strategic plan goals should be completed by April NPBC meeting. Committee chairs should have a final report ready for distribution at that meeting. After NPBC meeting, report recommendations will be referred to Executive Committee for approval and implementation.

NASDA

Need to get NASDA to buy onto NPB as an organization and get their support. We need NASDA to support our goals and activities and maybe provide some financial support. Steve Johnson will prepare an article on the NPB for NASDA newsletter and then NPB members should meet with their NASDA commissioner/secretary about the NPB. Steve should set up a meeting with Kirchoff to explain what the NPB is and see if regional plant board presidents could attend regional NASDA meetings and make a short presentation on their activities.

Japanese Beetle Harmonization Plan

Some states are departing from the harmonization plan. President of the NPB should try to work with "departing states" members, secretary of Agriculture, and state nursery association. Utah is a problem. Their quarantine is not a protectionism issue. They appear to have a lack of knowledge of the biology of the beetle and the threat that it can cause.

ANLA technical advisory committee (quarantine committee) - try to get NPB President as a member of that committee. Craig Regellbrugge suggested that NPB write a letter to ANLA requesting NPB membership on that committee.

NPBC Meetings

Bob Balaam will be the contact point for letting Candy Anderson (USDA travel liaison) know when NPBC meetings will be held and who will be attending. Mileage reimbursement is currently 32.5 cents until April 1 when it goes back to 31.0 cents.

Agenda items must be submitted to PPQ three (3) weeks before the meeting. Members must submit proposed agenda items to regional representatives in a timely manner so that this deadline

is met. Next meeting April 19-23